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## AIDS FOREIGN REPORTERS

USIA's Bishop Gets  
'Helping-Hand' Role

By Tony Brenna

A friendly Texan drawl greets foreign correspondents checking into a unique government installation in New York. Newly-appointed director of the Foreign Correspondents' Center at 340 East 46th Street is Barry Bishop, a former Dallas newspaperman.

"There's nothing quite like this setup elsewhere in the U.S.," says the Texan who started his career on the *Dallas News* in 1926, and who has now been picked to work within the shadow of the United Nations Building, host to probably one of the world's largest international gatherings of newspapermen and women.

## Services for Writers

"We're here to help foreign correspondents in every way, no matter where they come from, whether they're assigned to the U.N., or simply to the U.S. But our services and facilities are exclusively for writers from overseas, not for the domestic press," explained Mr. Bishop who is a representative of the U.S. Information Agency, which, with the White House and the State Department, sponsors the center.

Facilities to aid foreign newsmen are, indeed, generous. The new director conducted this reporter around the center. It provides a research library. New York daily newspapers as well as a representative selection of out of town papers, some 60 news and opinion publications and a recording booth (plus tape recorder) for radio men.

"News ticker services are

available for back-stopping purposes—the AP New York City radio wire, the UPI Washington wire, and the USIA news service from Washington—provided to give visiting newsmen the national picture," says Mr. Bishop.

## Problems Understood

"I understand the problems reporters face, especially in another country," he says. "It is our job to help those assigned to the U.S. to get true perspective on what's going on, to guide them on U.S. policy and to help provide facilities which will be an aid in preparing material filed from this country."

To this end, background briefings are held at the Center periodically by government and other officials. News conferences in Washington involving top government officials are relayed "live" to the center. Regular office hours are 9 to 5:30 p.m., but the center stays open whenever there is a major news break which keeps correspondents filing late.

Mr. Bishop, who told E&P that he's quite willing to help reporters "contact official sources in Washington if so requested," is also planning a regular program of activities for the new year. Earlier this month, for example, it was his idea to have Mrs. Arthur J. Goldberg, wife of the U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., visit the center to meet women correspondents for overseas media.

In his new assignment, Mr. Bishop makes it clear that the staff at the center want to remain in the background. "We're

here to advise and to help," he stresses, "not to make pronouncements nor to seek publicity."

## Image Projectors

It is also clear, however, that Washington is very much aware of the millions of words which constitute the weekly newsfile of nearly 600 reporters whose beat is the U.S.A. A good proportion of such newsmen are in New York. And it is through their eyes that the U.S. image is projected to all parts of the world, whether the story subject is politics, how Americans live, think, or react to domestic and international developments. A press corps, in fact, well worthy of special consideration.

Asked to give his views as to what correspondents can get out of the center, Mr. Bishop cited a USIA publication which listed these advantages:

- It helps to break down the language barrier that some of them face;

- It assists in arranging appointments with the government officials and private citizens a journalist may wish to interview;

- It provides political and general background for information on a regular basis;

- It organizes trips for correspondents so that they may attain a wider and better understanding of the U.S.;

- It provides a central location where leaders from American public and private life—who are not easily accessible to foreign newsmen—are made available for press briefings and a question-and-answer session.

## Varied Career

Barry Bishop brings to his new post extensive experience in dealing with the press, particularly the foreign press. His first assignment was as a Dallas News statehouse reporter in Austin, Tex. In 1929 he returned to Dallas to cover city hall and to specialize in coverage of city planning and race relations. In 1945, the News sent him to Mexico City to open a bureau—where he learned to speak Spanish—remaining there until 1950 when he joined the paper's Washington bureau. In 1951 he left newspaper work, joining the State Department staff as a press attache in Mexico City. He returned to Washington in 1954, becoming chief of the USIA's Latin-American service. Subsequent government assignments took him to Argentina, to Bolivia, and to Spain, and into